

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claims 4 and 5. This amendment adds no new matter.

Claims 2-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9-13 were previously cancelled.

Claim 14 has been newly added. This new claim adds no new matter.

Claims 1, 6-8, and 14 are pending.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0038124 to Hisamitsu et al. ("Hisamitsu"). The Examiner asserts that Hisamitsu discloses each and every limitation of the rejected claims. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Examiner contends that claim 1 is anticipated by Hisamitsu, given that Hisamitsu discloses a laminate cell having a power generating element formed by sequentially stacking positive and negative electrode plates while interposing separators therebetween; a positive tab connected to the positive electrode plates; and a negative tab connected to the negative electrode plates. Further, the tabs are drawn outward from end edges of long sides of the cell package.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate subject matter from now-canceled claims 4 and 5. Hisamitsu no longer teaches each and every limitation of claim 1, and thus cannot anticipate instant claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot for these claims.

In addition, claim 6 depends from claim 1. A dependent claim includes all the limitations of the claim from which it depends (and further limits the claim). Thus, because claim 1 is not anticipated by Hisamitsu, claim 6 is not anticipated by Hisamitsu, either.

Thus, for at least the reasons provided above, Hisamitsu does not anticipate instant claim 1 and 6, and Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0054239 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe") in view of Hisamitsu. Claim 7 is rejected as unpatentable over Hisamitsu in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0191632 to Kelley et al. ("Kelley"). Claim 7 is also rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. US2003/0054239 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe") in view of Hisamitsu, in further view of Kelley. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected as unpatentable over Hisamitsu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,498,490 to Brodd ("Brodd"). Claims 7 and 8 are also rejected as unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Hisamitsu, in further view of Brodd. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner contends that Watanabe discloses a lithium unit cell comprising an anode and a cathode, with the terminals of each connected to the unit cells. The Examiner further contends that Watanabe discloses a collector and a collector weld portion. While Watanabe does not disclose a separation film inserted between the anode and cathode place for providing electric insulation, the Examiner asserts that a separator is inherent in Watanabe. To cure the deficiency of terminals protruding from either of two long sides of four sides of the rectangular anode/cathode plates in Watanabe, the Examiner relies on Hisamitsu, which discloses a laminate cell with a power generating element formed by sequentially stacking positive and negative electrode plates while interposing separators therebetween; a positive tab connected to the positive electrode plates; and a negative tab connected to the negative electrode plates. Further, the tabs are drawn outward from end edges of long sides of the cell package.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1, such that it now recites that the protruded structure of the cathode terminal and the anode terminal protrude in the same direction on the long side. Although Hisamitsu discloses that the positive and negative tabs are drawn outward from end edges of long sides of the cell package, Hisamitsu does not disclose the protruded structure of the cathode terminal and the anode terminal protruding in the same direction on the long side.

Thus, for at least the reason provided above, Watanabe in view of Hisamitsu does not render claim 1 obvious. Claims 6-8 and 14 ultimately depend from claim 1, which are allowable at least based on the reason provided above. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

IV. New claim

Claim 14 has been newly added. No new matter is added by this claim. New claim 14 ultimately depends from claim 1, which is allowable at least based on the argument presented above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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